

## **MEMORANDUM**

TO: Members, Utah State Board of Education

FROM: Dr. Patti Harrington  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

DATE: April 4, 2008

ACTION: R277-490, Beverley Taylor Sorenson Elementary Arts Learning Program (New)

**Background:** S.B. 2, Minimum School Program Budget Amendments, 2008 Legislative Session, created the Beverley Taylor Sorenson Elementary Arts Learning Program to provide grants to integrate arts teaching and learning into selected elementary schools. The new legislation specifically directs the Board to:

- Establish a grant program to allow school districts and charter schools to hire 50 highly qualified, full-time arts specialists to be based at 50 public schools;
- Distribute up to \$10,000 in one-time funds, as appropriate by the Legislature, for each school arts specialist to purchase supplies and equipment;
- Establish a grant program to allow ten school districts to hire arts coordinators, provided that a qualifying school district provides matching funds in an amount equal to the grant amount;
- Annually contract with an independent, qualified evaluator, selected through a request for proposals process, to evaluate the Beverley Taylor Sorenson Elementary Arts Learning Program;
- Require participating schools to partner with Utah higher education institutions that award elementary education degrees to provide professional development and leadership development for arts education;
- Make an annual report to the Education Interim Committee in 2009-2011;
- Consult with the Utah Arts Council in distributing the funds and program development.

Legislative intent language recommends that the Utah State Office of Education work with the Utah Arts Council to develop the program through a mutually agreeable arrangement.

The new rule provides standards, procedures, and timelines for the above requirements.

**Proposal:** Staff will review the new rule, R277-490, Beverley Taylor Sorenson Elementary Arts Learning Program, with the Curriculum and Instruction Committee.

**Anticipated Action:** It is recommended that the Curriculum and Instruction Committee approve the new rule, R277-490, Beverley Taylor Sorenson Elementary Arts Learning Program, on first reading, and that the Board approve the new rule on second reading.

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